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REMARKS

Applicants affirm the election of Group III, claims 65-73, 76-88, and 90-98.

Applicants have cancelled claims 58-64, 74, 75, 89, and 99-128 without prejudice.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims similar or identical to these claims in one or more divisional applications claiming priority to the instant application.

Applicants have amended claim 65 to recite that the cross-sectional thickness of the protrusion, when averaged along the length of the protrusion, is less than about 100 microns. This amendment is supported in the specification, for example, on page 10, lines 21-25. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants have rewritten previously presented claim 66 in independent form as claim 129, previously presented claim 76 in independent form as claim 140, and previously presented claim 97 as independent claim 151. Applicants have also added dependent claims 130-139, 141-150, and 152-160 from claims 129, 140, and 151. These dependent claims have been rewritten from dependent claims 67, 72, 73, 78, 79, 86-88, 96, and 97. Thus, no new matter has been added. It is not seen where in the prior art is the subject matter of claims 129, 140, or 151 taught, suggested, or disclosed.

Claims 65-73, 76-88, 90-98, and 129-160 are now pending for examination.

Rejection of claims 65-73, 76-88, 90, 91, and 96-98 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 65-73, 76-88, 90, 91, and 96-98 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Patel, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,342,317 ("Patel").

To begin, Applicants do not concede that Patel is properly prior art to the Applicants' claimed inventions. Applicants reserve the right to establish an invention date for the claimed invention that is on or before the effective 35 U.S.C. §102(e) date of the subject matter of Patel relied on in the Office Action.

Applicants do not see where, in Patel, is a protrusion having a cross-sectional thickness, when averaged along its length, of less than about 100 microns disclosed or suggested. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 65 in view of Patel be withdrawn. Claims 66-73, 76-88, 90, 91, and 96-98 depend, either directly or indirectly, from

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independent claim 65, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn as well for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Rejection of claims 65-69, 72, 73, 77-81, 85-88, 90, 91, and 96-98 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 65-69, 72, 73, 77-81, 85-88, 90, 91, and 96-98 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chen, U.S. Patent No. 5,677,080 ("Chen").

Applicants do not see where, in Chen, is a protrusion having a cross-sectional thickness, when averaged along its length, of less than about 100 microns disclosed or suggested.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 65 in view of Chen be withdrawn. Claims 66-69, 72, 73, 77-81, 90, 91, and 96-98 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 65, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn as well for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time.

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If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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